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NOVEMBER

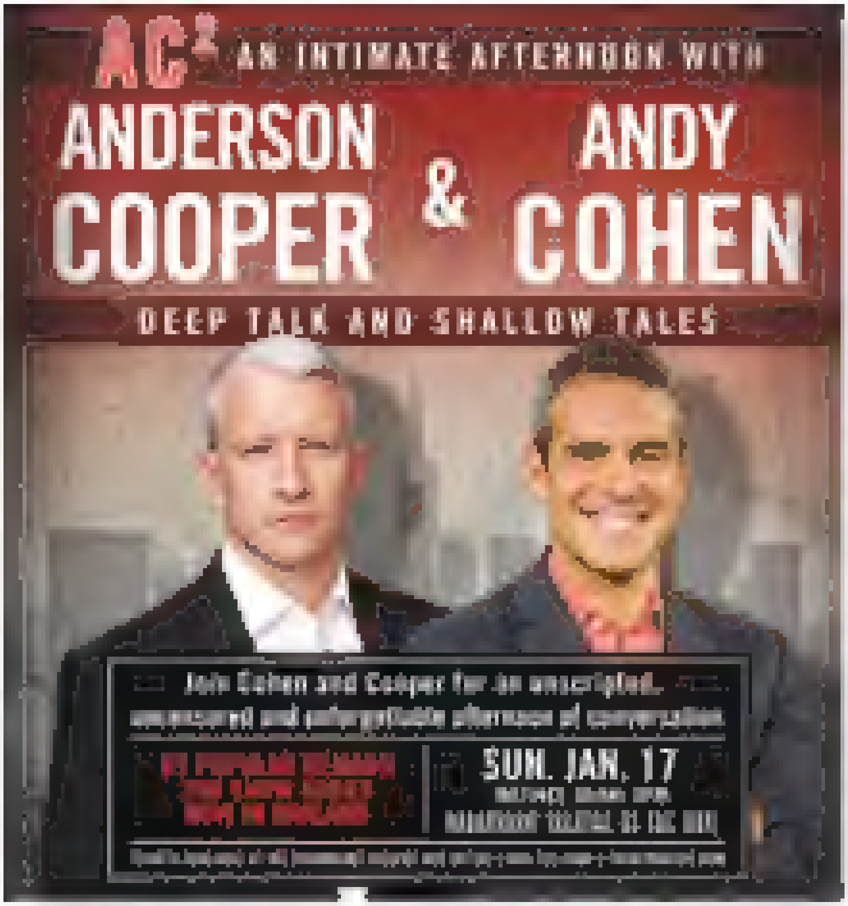
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OAKLAND'S TOXIC FAILURE

After Oakland failed for a decade to protect the public and firefighters from hazardous materials, the state stripped the city of these duties. And now investigators are looking into illegal shipments of toxic waste and the misuse of public funds.

By Darwin BondGraham



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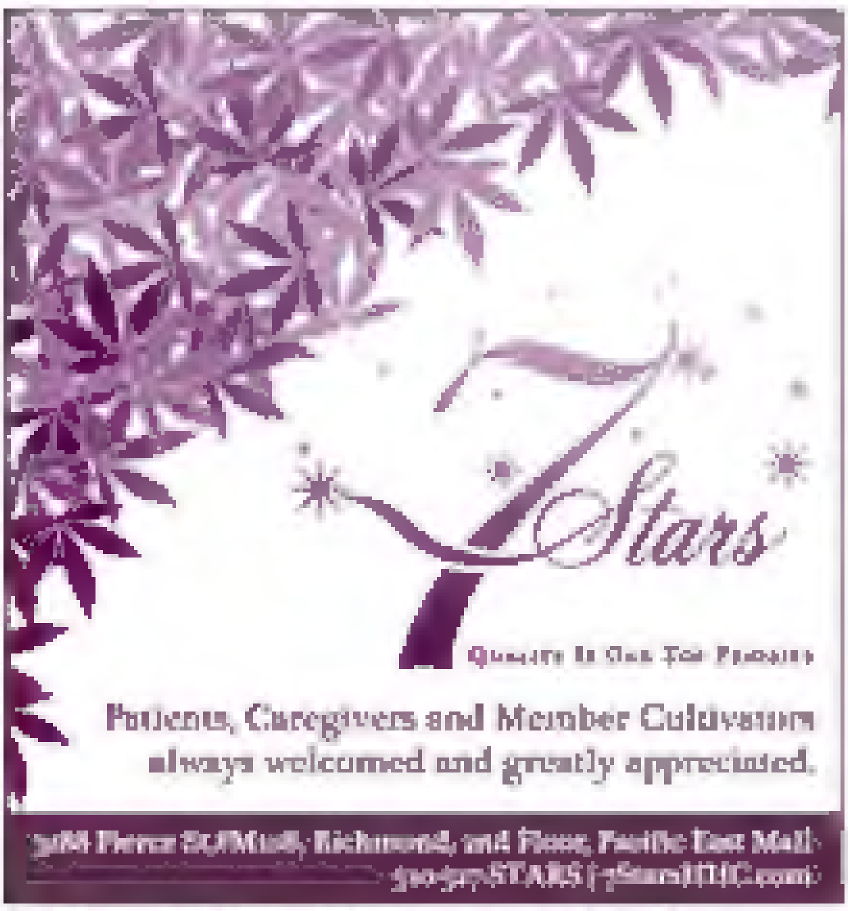
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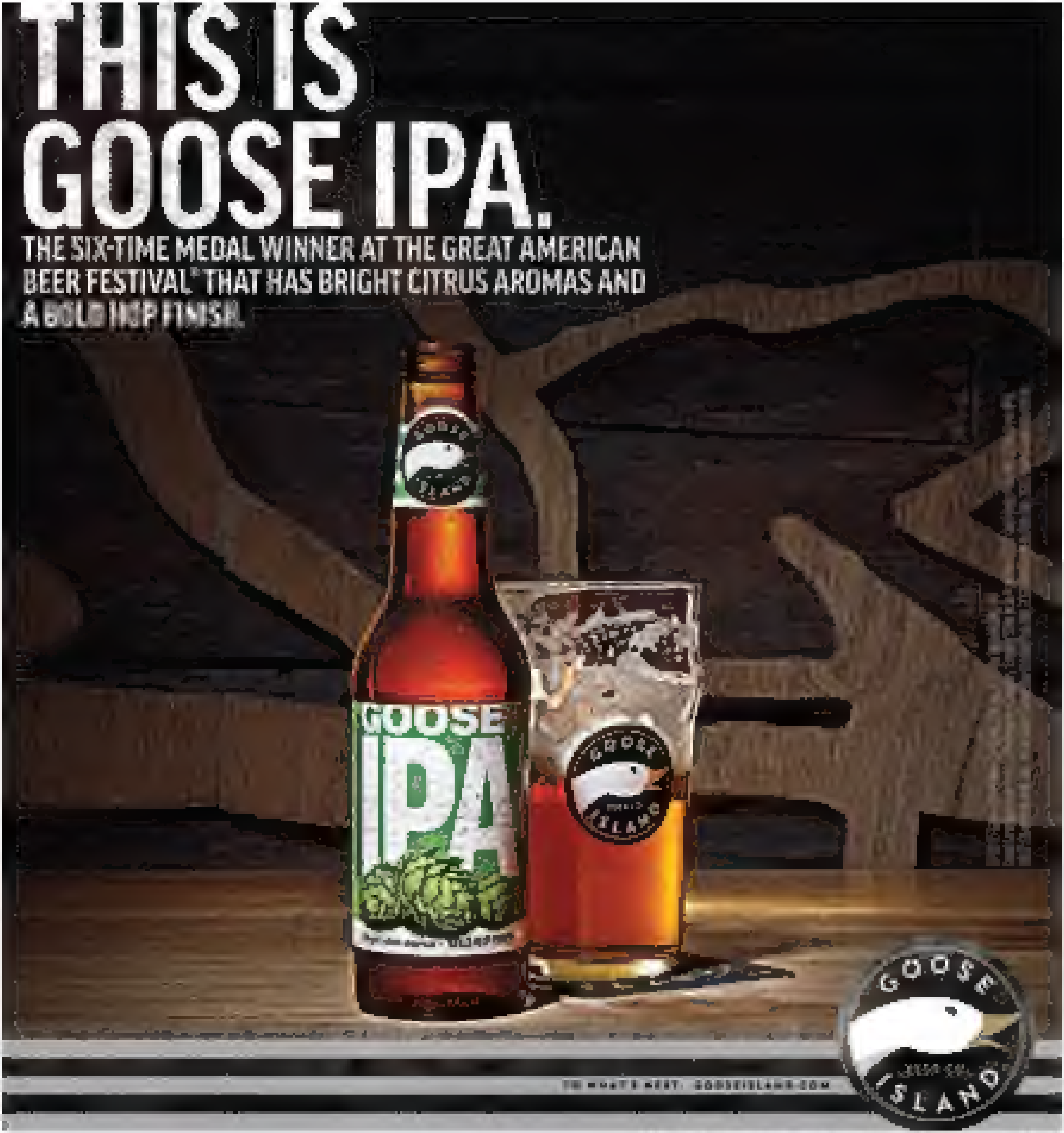
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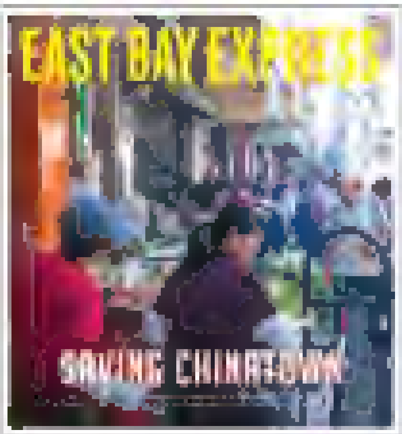
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NEWS&OPINION



LETTERS

"Saving Chinatown," Feature, 10/28

Chinatowns Deserve Protection

Congratulations, Luke Tsai, for an extremely thorough and thought-provoking look at Chinatowns, many of which have already disappeared in the United States. The saving of San Francisco's Chinatown, before and after 1906, when politicians and business interests tried to relocate all Chinese to the Bay View, was both an economic and civil rights battle. Unlike later displacements — by redevelopment — of Japanese-Americans from Nihonmachi and African-Americans from the Western Addition/Lower Fillmore, we intact Chinatown incubated an evolution of a strong Chinese-American culture. San Francisco's Chinatown deserves public investments and legal protections to strengthen its economic (tourism) benefit, to preserve its unique architecture and character, and to honor it as the birthplace of Chinese culture in America.

Thanks again for this great article.

Bernard Wong, American Institute of Architects, San Francisco

A Labyrinth of Distractions

I'm generally quite fond of Luke Tsai's work for the Express: I love his restaurant reviews and highly respect his intelligence. However, as with his coverage of "Alkin Town," this piece relies far too much on the standard Oakland cry about "displacement," the ostensible antidote to which is the entrenchment of "traditional" ghetto cultures in traditional ghettos.

The story of new life in Chinatown gets short shrift here and is treated as an afterthought in a short paragraph near the end that begins with, "There's also no question that plenty of good things are already happening in Chinatown ..." Most of that story is missing. Instead, we're led through a labyrinth of distractions. Not a word about the (admittedly) new Golden Harvest shop or the booming Malaysian restaurant, Chili Padi. Luke Tsyon these them — he's written wonderful reviews — but here, they don't fit the narrative. (Meanwhile, I'll have to try the new Tatsumo across late night, now that New Gold Medal is no longer open past midnight — perhaps the most obvious change in Chinatown this past year — another item missing from this story.)

Examples of other Chinatowns? Why mention only D.C.? Why is there not a word here about Flushing, or Sunset Park — or Houston's new Chinatown, which thrives in the suburbs while its old "traditional" Chinatown has been displaced? (For that matter, Manhattan's old Chinatown has expanded to "displace" much of Little Italy.) Times change, and so, too, does the world's mix of immigrations and ethnic interplay of ethnicities. For that matter, so do the fluid, ever-porous boundaries of neighborhoods.

The turfism exercised by so-called community activists (aka professional agitators) are, in reality, someone's working class — and many of them are Asian. They (along with UC students commuting from Berkeley) patronize the slew of new bubble tea joints in and out of Chinatown, and if they buy their fish and vegetables at Whole Foods, the reason is increased concern with the wholesomeness and quality of the goods, evidently by (among others) Asians themselves. In Oakland, more than liberal to celebrate diversity are often the quickest to rail against "intruders." The commodification — and the bitter irony — is all too obvious.

Michael Mahoney, Oakland

"Oakland Struggles to Hold City Hall Accountable," News, 10/28

Wrong Title

Why isn't this article titled "Oakland Struggles to hold City Hall accountable"? Although the city council is ultimately responsible for lapses in contract language (as they have the final approval), they have so much on their plate that they must rely on staff to implement their policies correctly. How many people were fired due to the failure to follow the council's instructions regarding the contract? I would wager that not only did no one get fired, but that the responsible staff got a hefty annual raise, as usual. Oakland, how about getting your own house in order?

Jim McAvinder, El Sobrante

Let's Ban the Bad Banks

I think it is time the City of Oakland should stop "struggling to hold banks accountable" and simply accept the fact that Wall Street banks cannot be trusted. As the Express has rightly said, the banks have a long history of redlining East Oakland (refusing to make loans in low-income neighborhoods), and more recently, offering predatory mortgages which led to "more than 10,000 foreclosures" in Oakland. "Further, while it may be 'frustrating' to Councilmember Larry Reid that JP Morgan Chase bank closed its only branch in his district, it's hardly surprising given the bank's felony status. Yes, that is correct, JP Morgan Chase & Co. is a convicted felon.

You may not have heard about it in the mainstream media, but on May 20, 2015, the US Department of Justice announced that four major banks — JP Morgan Chase & Co., Citigroup Inc., Barclays Bank PLC, and the Royal Bank of Scotland — agreed to plead guilty to felony charges of conspiring to manipulate the price of US dollars and Euros exchanged in the foreign currency exchange spot market. The banks have agreed to pay criminal fines totaling more than $2.5 billion. Each bank agreed to pay a criminal fine in proportion to their involvement in the conspiracy as follows: Citigroup at $925 million; Barclays at $650 million; JP Morgan at $550 million; and Royal Bank of Scotland at $395 million.

Also, on May 20, 2015, the Federal Reserve announced that it also was imposing separate fines totaling more than $1.8 billion against six banks for their unsafe and unsound practices in the foreign exchange markets. JP Morgan Chase was one of the six banks fined by the Federal Reserve. The fines are among the largest ever assessed by the Federal Reserve, including $342 million each for UBS, Barclays, Citigroup, and JP Morgan Chase; $274 million for Royal Bank of Scotland; and $205 million for Bank of America Corporation.

The behavior of these banks is offensive and clearly displays a Wall Street culture in which several big banks broke the law even after years of strong criticism and increased regulation following the economic crisis. One trader is quoted as saying, "The less competition the better." A Barclay's vice president was caught saying, "If you ain't cheating, you ain't trying."

There are three steps that can be taken right now to stop Wall Street banks from further harming the citizens of Oakland. First, the city council can enact a law banning for ten years all future business with any bank convicted of a felony. It seems to me that Oakland should be able to find a bank that actually serves the needs of Oakland citizens. Second, the city council should establish a committee with the responsibility of creating a municipal or regional public bank that actually serves the needs of the community. (North Dakota has had a public bank since 1919.) Third, in the short term, someone needs to create a nonprofit financial organization to replace these check cashing outlets.

Criminal conduct and wrongful behavior by Wall Street banks should not be rewarded with future business dealings. Indeed, what Oakland needs to do is to create a financial institution that can serve the needs of Oakland citizens, and stop trying to hold Wall Street banks accountable.

Craig A. French, Oakland

"Oakland's Upcoming Plan for 'Parking'," News, 10/28

The Plan Will Hurt Poor Drivers

I'd like to see the Justice bonds of the

[illegible]

Relax, It Works

[illegible]

They Need Repair

[illegible]

Some Have Been Repaired

[illegible]

Don't Forget El Cerrito

[illegible]

Carland Rocks!

[illegible]

You're Wrong

[illegible]

'Secret' Is Perfect for Schaaf

[illegible]

Form Should Follow Function

[illegible]





back and much of this "new" open space west of [illegible] (Brooklyn Basin) is that the general public will have little, if any incentive to brave the constant traffic gridlock to get here. The people who will live in this development will be the only people utilizing this open space most of the time.

A basic urban design concept is that form follows function. You don't design an open space area based on cost and maintenance requirements and then figure out how it can be used. You should interact with the public to determine what kind of programming for the space is desired by the community and then should drive the design. The city should be very cautious and the citizens very diligent. [Signature Development Group] seems to be very good at promoting the world on the front end and then finding ways to minimize the commitment on the back end. Maybe the planning director can find some time while chasing another appearance with developers to ensure that community benefits are maintained in the manner promised when the entitlements are granted.

[illegible], former deputy director of Planning and Zoning for the City of Oakland, [illegible]

A Rat Haven?

Architect Peter Birkholz of the [Oakland Landmark Preservation Advisory Board] brought up an interesting point that the proposed deck would be raised slightly from the reservoir. I think he called it a potential "rat haven."

[illegible], Oakland

It Should Be a Promenade

It should have a promenade along the water with benches and trees and lighting, and the rest should be green open space with a sidewalk dotted with small trees on the upper side. Kids need places to run and play. Families need places to sit in the sun and picnic while enjoying the bay view. A well lit and designed promenade invites people to walk, skate, walk their dogs, etc., every day of the week. Think Marina Green, [illegible] beach, Huntington Beach.

Wood along the waterfront is not realistic and would be too expensive to maintain over the years in that large amount. I have seen promenades interspersed with rectangular planting areas of trees and shrubs surrounded by seating that were beautiful. Huntington Beach has designs of whales and fish etched into their cement promenade.

[illegible], San Pablo

You Nailed It

I'm a sixteen-year resident of Oakland with African-American kids, and my experience with [illegible] crime and safety posts has been exactly the same appalling story in unchecked white privilege as that described by the article.

The acceptance of racial and economic diversity that made my neighborhood appealing when I first moved here has been replaced by a feeling of my kids being unsafe roaming the neighborhood due to online racial profiling. I'm really thankful for this article for finally bringing this online racial profiling out into the public view.

I'm no lawyer, but I would be interested to see legal public recourse for people to fight the racial profiling activity of the online groups like Nextdoor. I believe when innocent people of color in the neighborhood are no longer able to do normal activities — kids playing in a yard, waiting for a bus, jogging, etc. — for fear of online retribution, it must be punishable under a number of statutes. The first one that comes to mind is the anti-cyber-bullying law.

Perhaps there could be legal punishments under slander statutes for spreading false information online indicating that innocent individuals are criminal suspects. I have even seen photos of minors shared online with notes about their current locations. I'm not sure which of these laws would apply to stalking minors, but I imagine there must be some penalty under anti-stalking and child predator protection laws.

I'm hoping some kind of class action lawsuit emerges and maybe the ACLU can put a stop to this once and for all.

[illegible], Oakland

Here's a Suggestion

I suggest a transformative class for people identifying as white: "Beyond the Culture of Separation" at Impact Hub in Oakland. I participated last year and did another level of personal work around my own learned racism and the institutionalized racism in the United States. The support of a community of other whites is critical in order to face our fears, shame, anger, and other responses. That's what lies at the roots of this behavior and mindset. This is what needs to change. I wonder what might shift if OPD police dispatchers and officers, Nextdoor staff, and neighborhood leads went through this education?

[illegible], Berkeley (formerly of Oakland)

Here's Another Example

Here's what [posted on Nextdoor.com]: [illegible]

"Creepy guy alert!!

Around [illegible] Sunday night May 11, a creepy guy was hovering around by my parent's car as I tried to say my goodbyes. He was hanging back to see where I was going to — near the corner of [illegible] Avenue and [illegible] Street (at the) back door! He turned the corner as I told my mom to pull off and I locked up [the] front entrance. [illegible] Thanks — [illegible] (and their friends).

He continued to look odd as he very slowly walked out of sight to [illegible] Street but was looking back the whole way. This was one of the few times I didn't have my pepper spray with me and I wished I had it handy. Please always remember to stay alert and let our community know if a strange person is hanging out. We can form a group and deter them from hanging out on our [illegible] Thanks to our wonderful community[.] [illegible] in our building!"

Description: Creepy guy was only [illegible]


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Get Off of Nextdoor

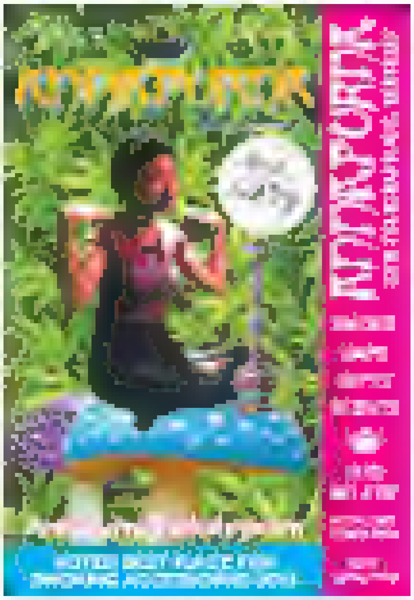
Don't Blame Nextdoor

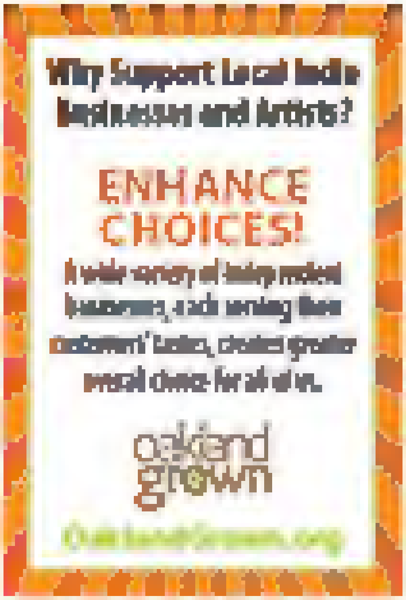
OPD Deserves Some of the Blame

Hogwash!

Well Done!











Big Oil Brown Strikes Again

The governor's hypocrisy on climate change deepens.

By Robert Gammon


CULTIVATED
BY HAND.
PERFECTED
BY SUN.
SATURDAY
NOV. 14



'Hellhole of Desperation' Still Exists

Governor Brown's initiative to help low-income drivers overcome excessive traffic court debts is failing the most vulnerable residents — and advocates say the East Bay courts' policies are particularly unjust.

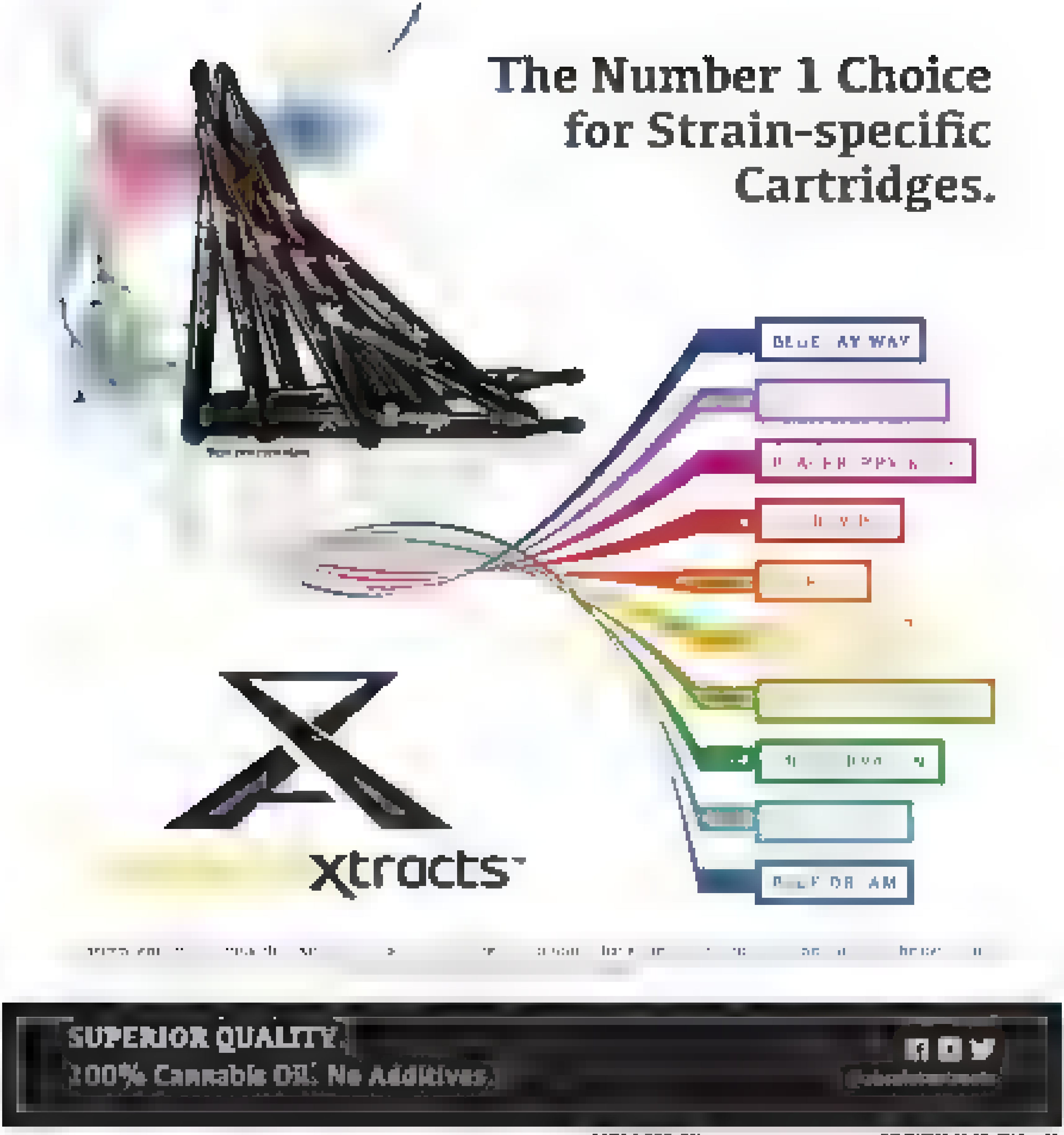
By Sam Levin

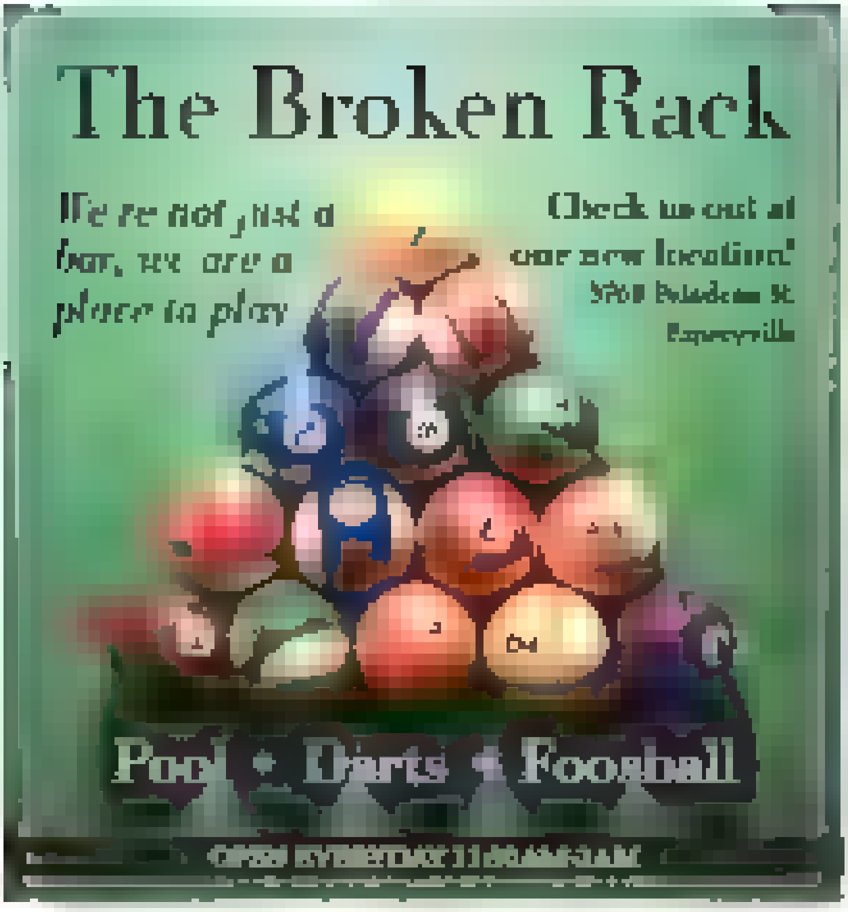
After losing his job as a [illegible] [illegible] spent [illegible] living out of his car in Hayward. Struggling with homelessness and unemployment, his financial troubles worsened in April of that year when he received a traffic ticket for talking on his cellphone while driving in San Leandro. [illegible]

[illegible]



[illegible]


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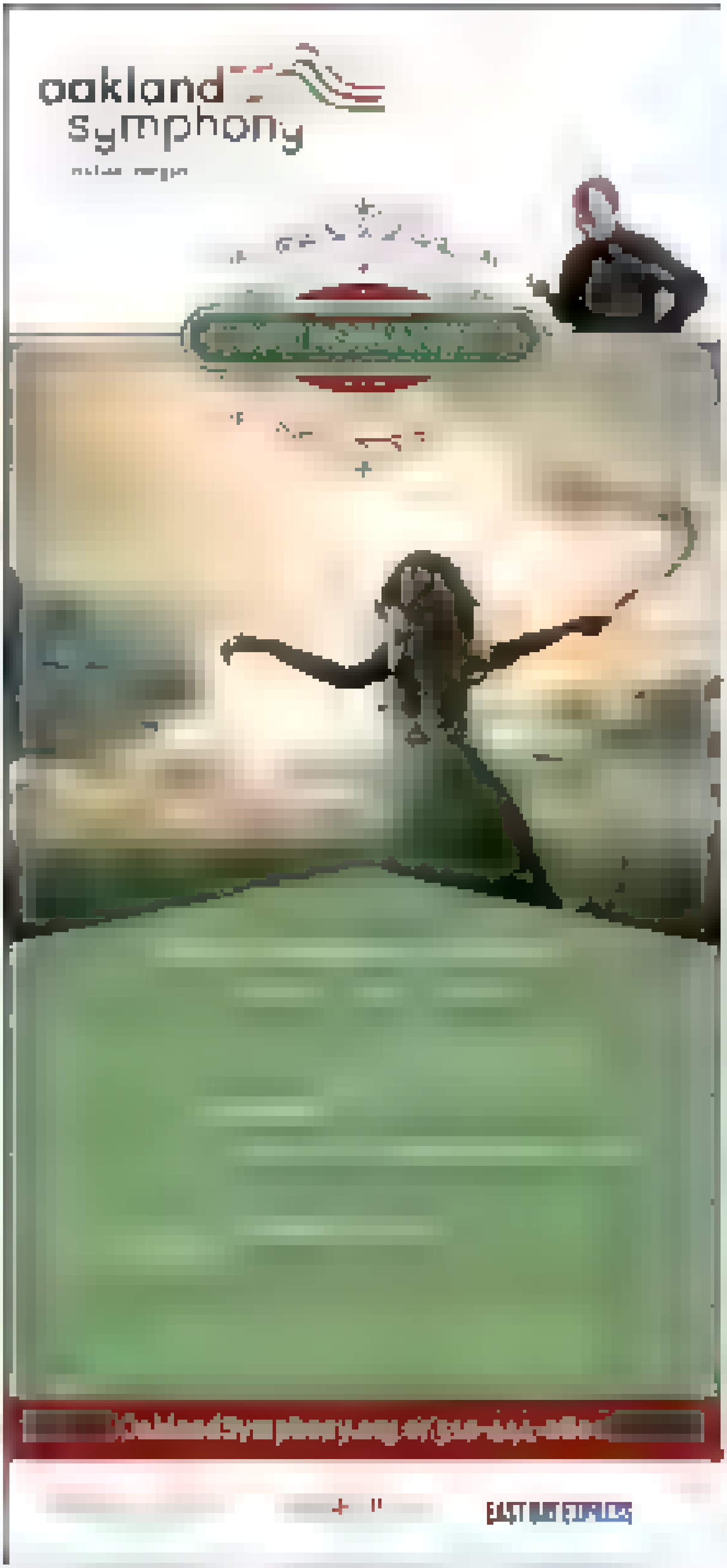

The Broken Rack
We're not just a bar, we are a place to play
Check us out at our new location!
Pool • Darts • Foosball


Holiday Volunteering
made easy with
Project in a Box!
handsonbayarea.org/projectinabox

Richmond Developer Pushes Two Ballot Measures

By John Geluardi




oakland
symphony



Oakland's Toxic Failure

After Oakland failed for a decade to protect the public and firefighters from hazardous materials, the state stripped the city of these duties. And now investigators are looking into illegal shipments of toxic waste and the misuse of public funds.

By Darwin BondGraham




hot spot
yoga
OAKLAND


OAKLAND
COME CELEBRATE OAKLAND




rare bird


$30


EAST BAY EXPRESS
HOLIDAY guide



"This didn't happen over night," said Bohon. "We went through a very long process. We worked with Oakland fire for years to get their program in order."


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fits


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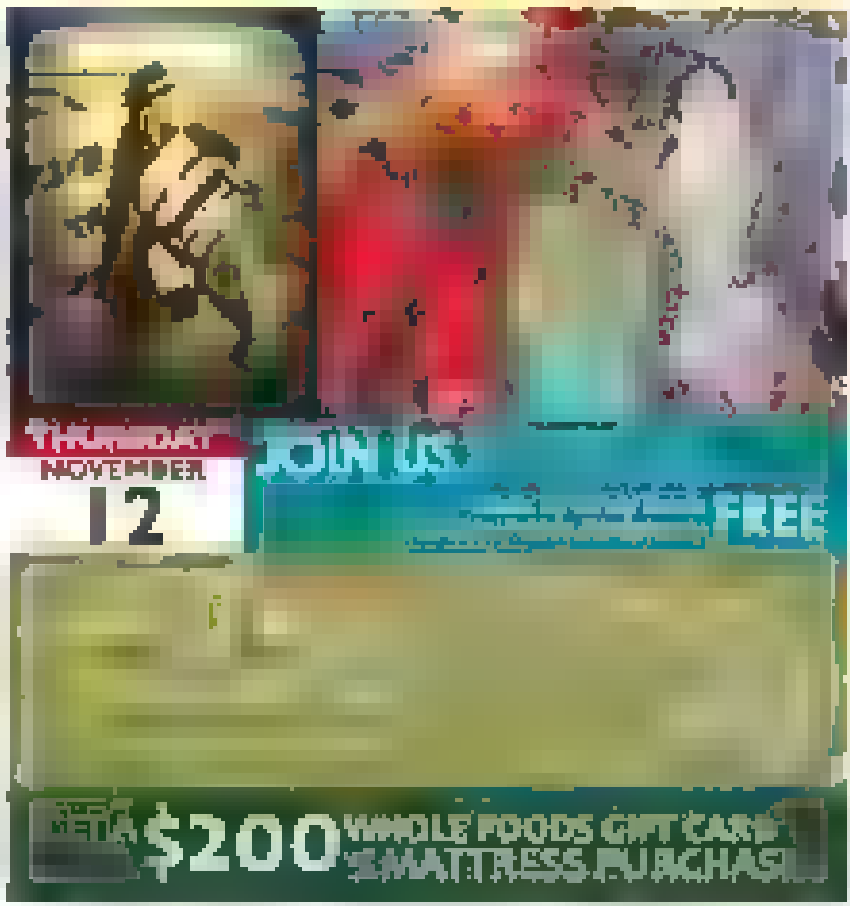




Oakland Acupuncture Project
Affordable Acupuncture $15-35 Sliding Scale
OaklandAcupunctureProject.com

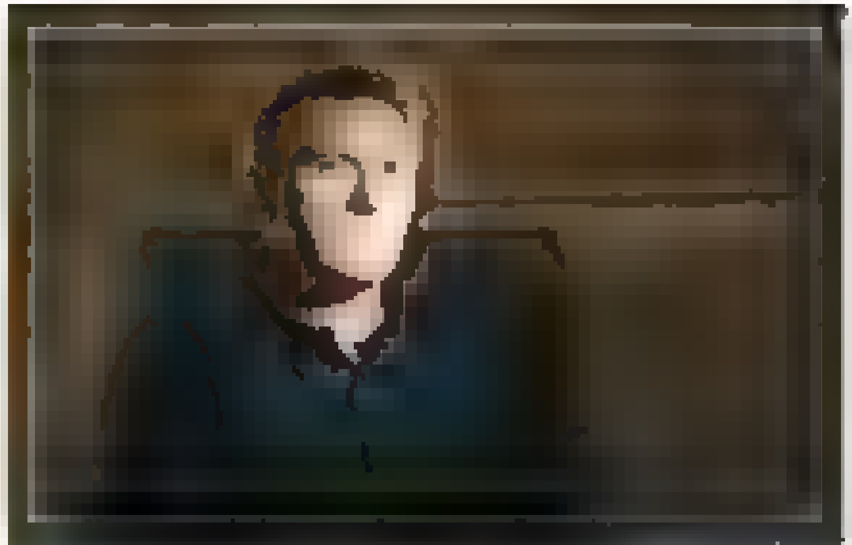


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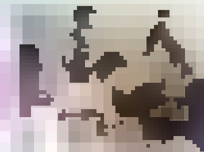


COMMUNITY MATTERS

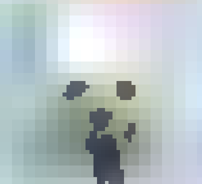
A local nonprofit resource directory

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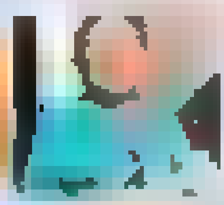


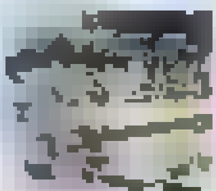




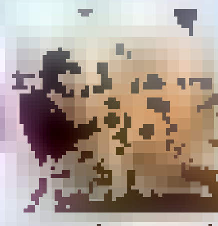


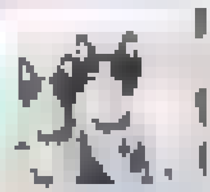










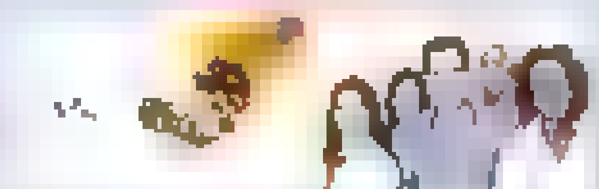




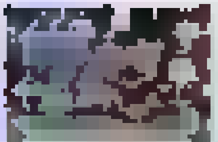






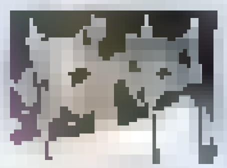




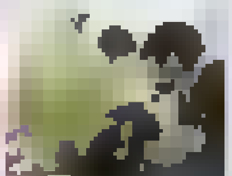
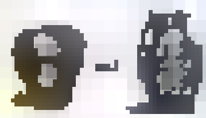





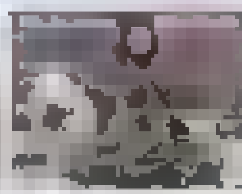


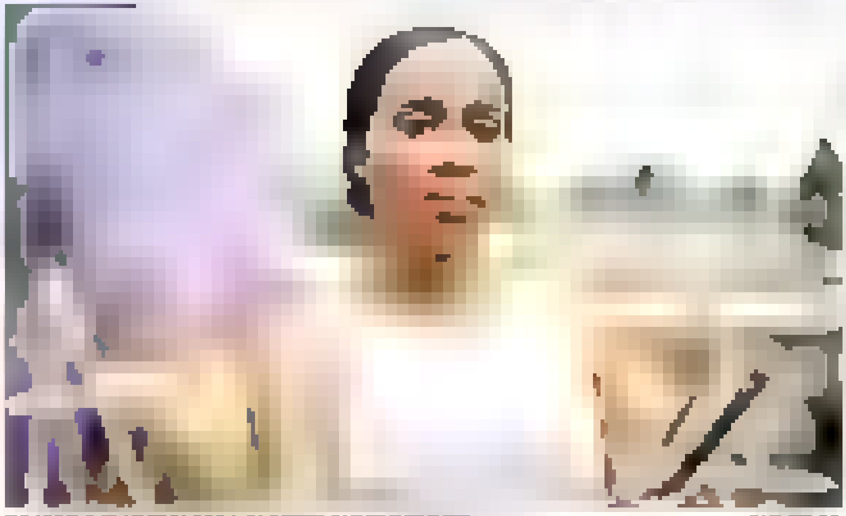










Capturing Oakland's Housing Crisis

Artist and astrophysicist Nia Imara documents the effects of gentrification in her multimedia archive, *Generations of Oakland: The People's Portrait.*

By Nastia Voynovskaya

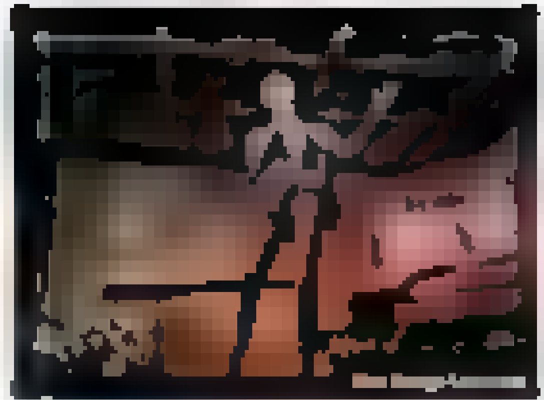



CELEBRATION OF
CRAFTSWOMEN



A Midsummer Night's Dream

Oakland Art Murmur at MOCHA



Max Savage Show Episode 3



Group Play

Oakland artist Zarouhie Abdalian presents a prose score inspired by protests and … to be performed at the Exploratorium

By Sarah Burke



Event Details




NEED HELP WITH MOM?






15TH STREET



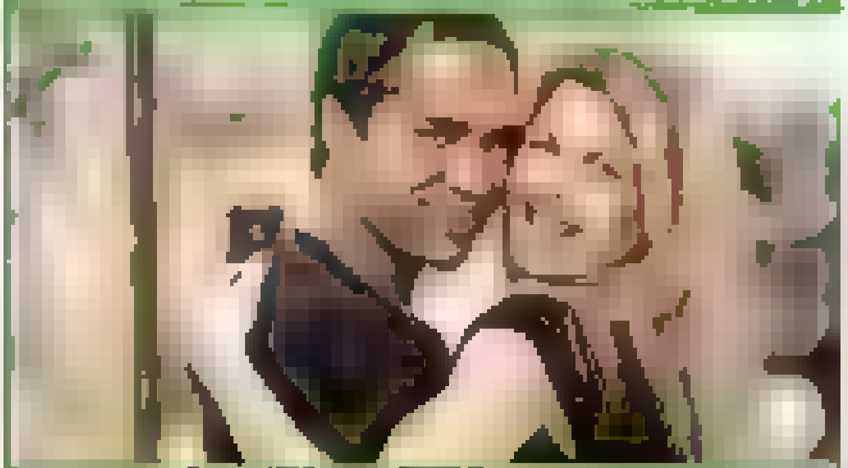




A Balletic Turf Recital

plans to merge ballet and turf dancing, highlighting commonalities between two disparate dance cultures.



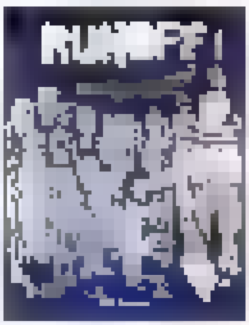




Zora's Faith: Somebody Has Got to Stand Up



Runoff Book Release with Tara Manning













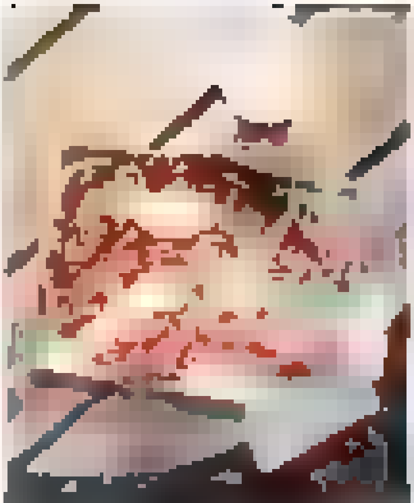
Duck, Duck, Brews

Aside from its pretty patio, Drake's Dealership offers pizza, beer, and a whole lot of duck.

By Luke Tsai

Drake's Dealership

Sample Menu




Taste of Ethiopia
$8.95

What The


Longest Bar and the Coldest Beer in the Town!
ALOHA CLUB
RAIDERS PRE-GAME TAILGATE HERE!




EXTREME DELIVERY







Waiting for Crab

East Bay restaurants and fishmongers switch gears in light of the Dungeness crab season delay.

By Luke Tsai





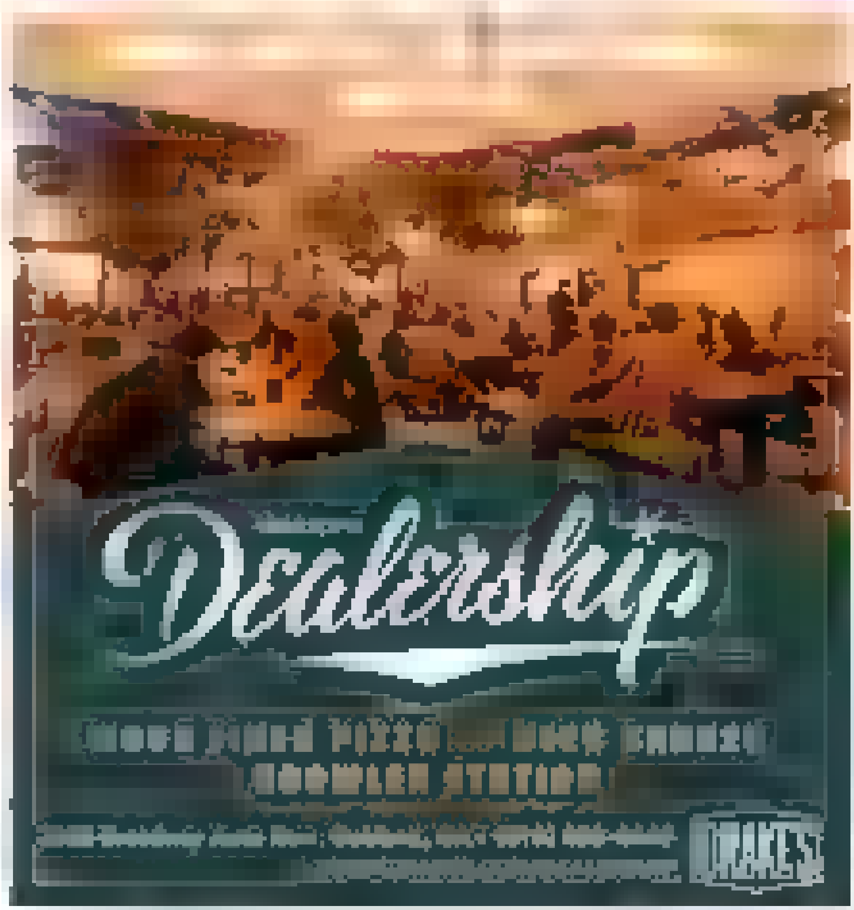
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GREEK STREET FOOD
Kouzina is now open!
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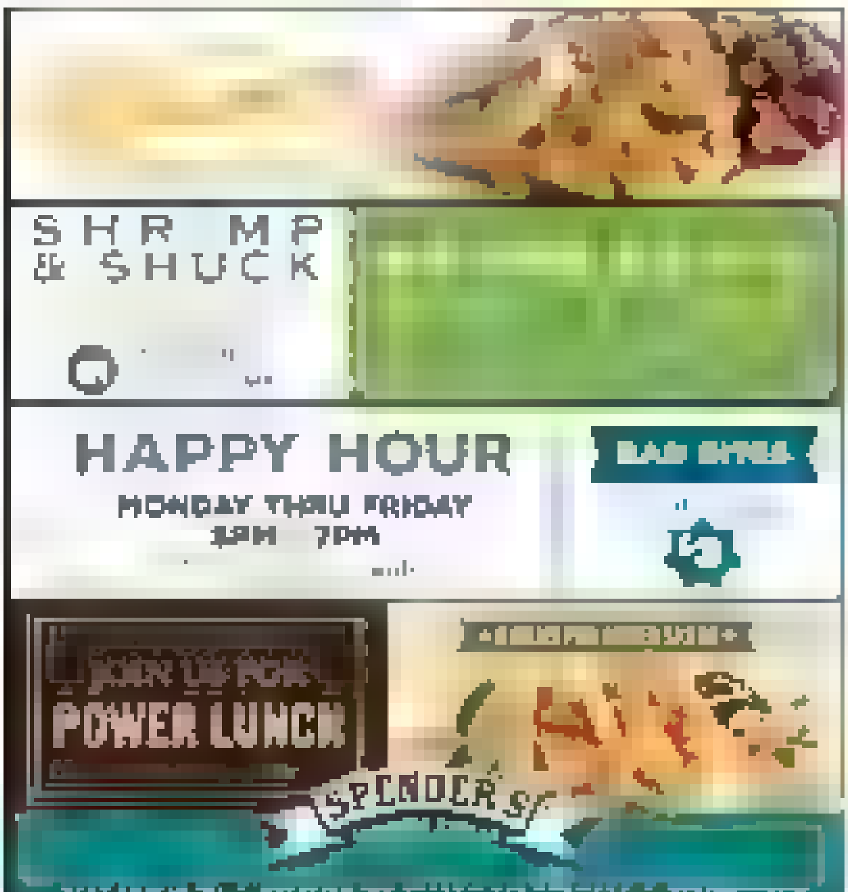
COCKTAILS
&
CARTOONS



Dealership
DRAKE'S







Pizza Restaurants in Oakland

A16

Arizmendi Bakery and Pizzeria

Boot and Shoe Service

Desco

The Forge

Lanesplitter Pizza and Pub

LoCoco's Restaurant

Lungomare

Nick and Aron's

Big Mamma's Kitchen

Noodles Fresh

Nick's Pizza

Pizzaiolo

Spettro

The Star

Zachary's Chicago Pizza



THE STAR
KITCHEN TO COUCH
The Star Delivers!



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50% off Bottles of Beer & Wine
MONDAY
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Half off Burgers
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WEDNESDAY
$12 Mussels & Frites

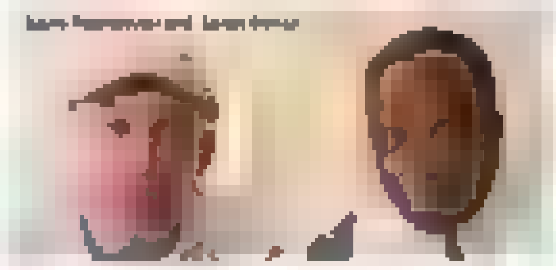


Now open early for happy hour!
5-6:30 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
encuentro



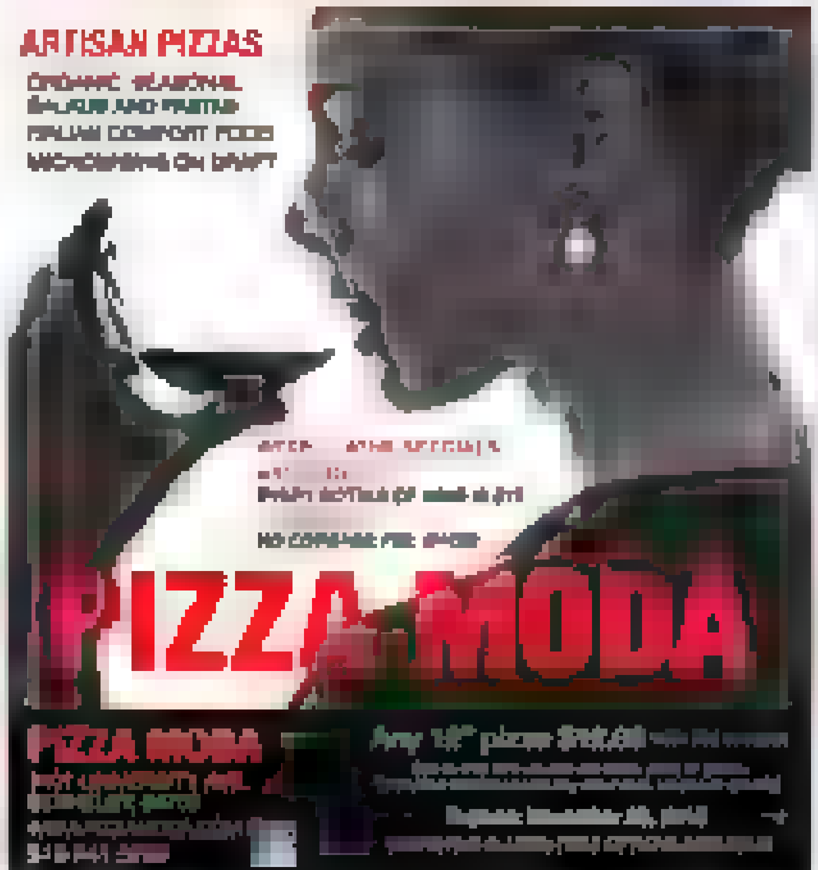
PIEDMONT
GROCERY
Serving The Many Tastes of Our Community

An Evening of Beer and Soul

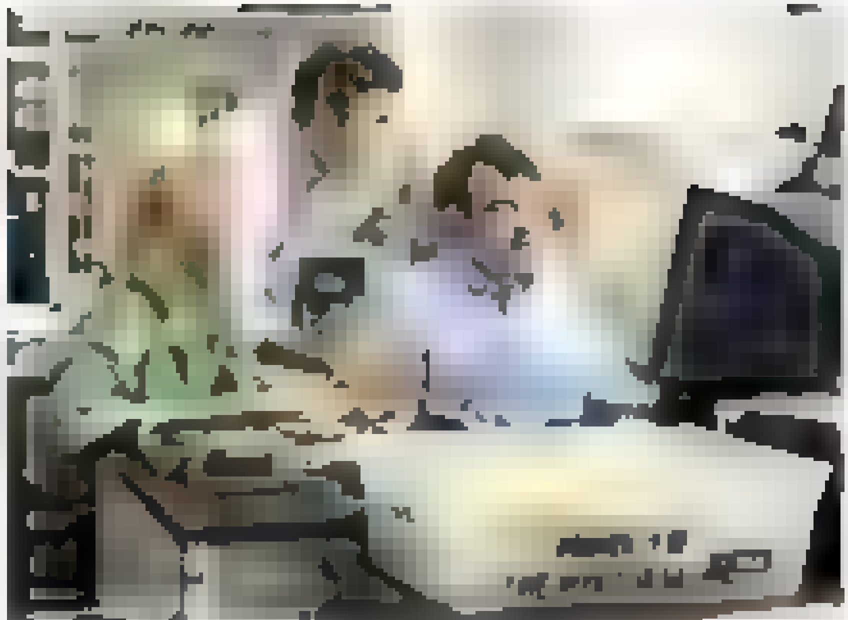








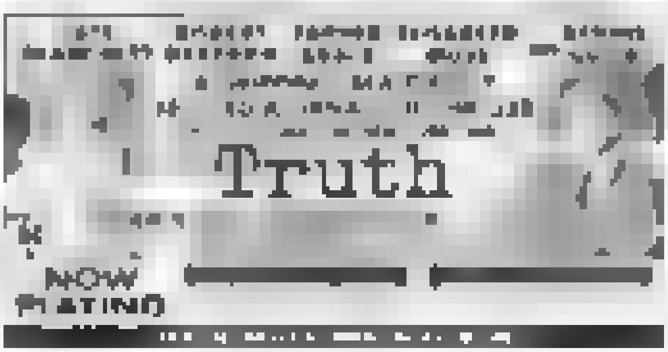
Boston or Brooklyn?



Spotlight

Brooklyn

Showtimes Online


Truth
NOW
PLAYING


SUFFRAGETTE


independent
cinema
MEDIA CENTER
berkeley
video film festival

ONE-NIGHT STANDS



From Vallejo to the Big Time

Nef the Pharaoh discusses his new EP, having E-40 as a mentor and life after "Big Tymin."

By Nastia Voynovskaya

N[illegible]

[illegible]


THE REGENCY BALLROOM
THE WARFIELD
Yellow Claw
DECEMBER 30
KEYS N KRATES
THE CULT
THE CHARLATANS UK
GOGOL BORDELLO
EMANCIPATOR ENSEMBLE

The Witching Hour






G-EAZY
A$AP FERG
WITH
MARC E BASSY & NEF THE PHARAOH
FEBRUARY
SAN FRANCISCO
BILL GRAHAM CIVIC AUDITORIUM

THURSDAY 12

Blues, Folk, & Country

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

FRIDAY 13

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Blues, Folk, & Country


THE FOX
THEATER OAKLAND
THE DEVIL MAKES THREE
ON SALE FRIDAY!
GODSPEED YOU! BLACK EMPEROR
JOSÉ GONZÁLEZ
with YMUSIC
City and Colour
NOVEMBER 15
STURGILL SIMPSON
Jackie Greene
Nicki Bluhm & the Gramblers



Crescent Moon: An Afghan Heritage Performance

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

SATURDAY 14

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Classical & Opera

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

SUNDAY 15

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip Hop

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip Hop

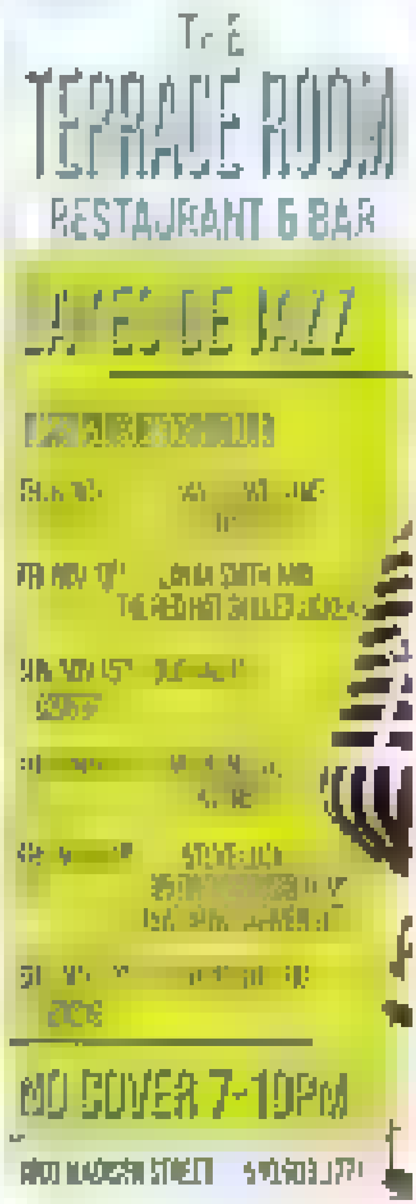
World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret









Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

MONDAY 16

Classical & Opera

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

TUESDAY 17

Blues, Folk, & Country

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Kids

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

WEDNESDAY 18

Blues, Folk, & Country

Gospel & Vocal

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

THURSDAY 12

FRIDAY 13

SATURDAY 14

Pure One















SUNDAY 15

MONDAY 16

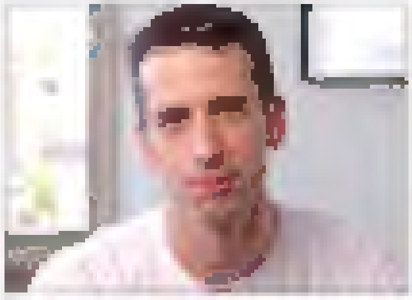
TUESDAY 17

WEDNESDAY 18

Broadway, Babies

A musical for every sexual problem.

By Dan Savage



Dan Savage

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[illegible]

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CLASSIFIEDS

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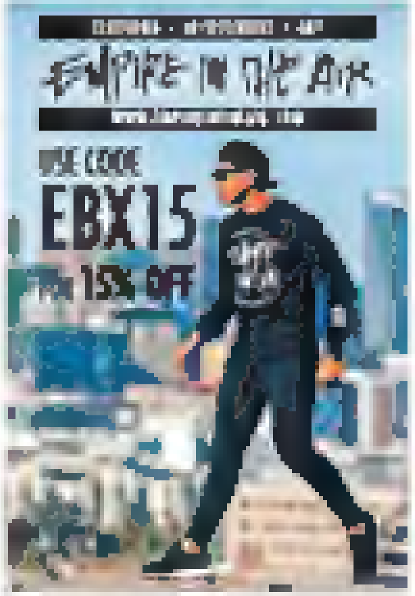
Ad Deadline:



CB2




Holistic Counseling
and Psychotherapy


USE CODE
EBX15


DUI?


LEGALIZATION
NATION

EAST BAY EXPRESS

BULLETIN BOARD

















